

would be subject to liability. But to have some clarification here with regard to when you will be sued, even when you are in effect an innocent bystander in a voluntary capacity, is something that we should do. It is long overdue.

We have known many instances, I am sure, in our own States where these types of lawsuits have been filed. And it is time that we take action. In fact, it goes hand in glove with what is happening in Philadelphia.

So I urge my colleagues that have reservations based on this, if there are concerns by trial lawyers that we can legitimately address, fine. But I do not think we should allow trial lawyers to dictate that we cannot have even the consideration of legislation that would provide some protection for volunteers in America.

Mr. President, again, I urge my colleagues to allow this legislation to go forward. And I hope that our colleagues will be able to vote for a final product by an overwhelming vote.

I yield the floor at this time, Mr. President.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, let me wish the occupant of the Chair a good day.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into a period of morning business not to extend beyond 3:30 p.m.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may be permitted to speak in morning business for not more than 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. MURKOWSKI pertaining to the introduction of S. 660 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as if in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TITLE IX

Mr. REID. Mr. President, several months ago I visited White Pine County High School located in Ely, NV, one

of the rural spots of Nevada. I was going to speak to an assembly of high school students. I was in a room waiting to give my presentation. In the room were two young ladies. They were dressed in letter sweaters from White Pine County High School. One of them was named Lauren and the other was Casandra.

While waiting, I struck up a conversation with these two young ladies. I asked them what sports they participated in. One of them ran track. She told me she had won the summer tournament in sprints. The other girl said she participated in softball.

So we carried on our conversation for a short period of time. As I was getting ready to go in, one of the young ladies said, "Senator I don't know what I would do without my sports."

Mr. President, these two young ladies' ability to participate in athletics is as a result of something that the Federal Government has done.

I started a series of speeches last summer on the Senate floor to discuss the good things that happen in Government. We tend to dwell on the negative, rather than the positive aspects of Government. I talked about how proud I was that we have our National Park System with great parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and the other great entities that are the envy of the world.

I talked about the Federal Emergency Management Agency, what a great job they have done in Nevada, and how proud I was of the work they had done in the State of Nevada during the recent floods. They are, of course, in every newspaper and on every news program because of the work they are doing with the floods of North Dakota and South Dakota right now.

I talked about the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and about the great work they do to make the marketplace safer for us.

I also talked about the great work that 25,000 men and women engage in every summer in fighting forest fires, principally in the Western part of the United States. They do very courageous things, such as jumping out of helicopters with backpacks weighing almost 100 pounds, and rappelling off the back of helicopters.

These are Government programs. We should acknowledge them. The Federal Government has its shortcomings, and I am the first to acknowledge that. But let's not dwell on the shortcomings. Let's talk about some of the good things that happen.

That is the reason I am here today; to talk about one of the programs that the Federal Government initiated that I think is good. I am here to speak about title IX, enacted as part of the Education Act Amendments of 1972, which gives women and girls equal rights in education and in athletics.

Just a couple of months ago we celebrated the 11th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. We had all kinds of star female athletes come here

to The Mall in Washington to celebrate the accomplishments of women in sports and to commemorate the upcoming anniversary of title IX.

I think this Federal statute is an example of good Government. What we attempted to do in this legislation is level the playing field for all Americans.

Title IX is an example of Government funding providing just such an opportunity in America. We have not reached the goal of equity for men and women in high school and college athletics. But we have come a tremendous way as indicated, in my opinion, by Lauren and Casandra telling me about their enthusiastic participation in rural Nevada athletics.

So as we approach the 25th anniversary of title IX this June we can be proud of the accomplishments made under this law while looking ahead to the goal of equal treatment for men and women in education and in sports.

In 1972, when this law went into effect, about 1 out of every 30 girls in high school played sports. Today it is 1 in 3. Now women account for 34 percent of athletic participants in high school and college sports.

In 1972, just a small amount of money was spent nationwide on athletic scholarships for women—less than \$100,000. Today it is approaching \$200 million. Fifty-five percent of women participate in high school sports.

A recent USA Today analysis of 303 NCAA Division I schools found that women comprised 37 percent of all athletes at these schools. There has been an increase even since 1992 in girls participating in college athletics. It is up over 20 percent.

It is a great accomplishment to have one of your children graduate from college. I have had that opportunity with my children. But it is also a great thrill to watch your children participate in athletics at the high school level and at the college level. Only one of my children has participated in athletics at the college level. But that was a great thrill for me to watch my young boy play on three national NCAA championship teams on three separate occasions. He played soccer at the University of Virginia, where they were national champions. Girls should have the same opportunity that my son had to play Division I and Division II college athletics.

Nationwide, 7 million women of all ages play soccer. The number of NCAA Division I women's soccer teams has increased from 22 in 1982 to over 200 now. That is a significant increase. Thanks to title IX, more women are going to college, more women are getting scholarships, and more women are playing sports at a competitive level.

I have always been one that supported college athletics. While some criticize competitive athletics in college, I think they are great. Athletics allows people who would never have set foot within a university campus to get an education. They don't always graduate, even though the graduation rates